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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2967
INFO RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0530
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA/DSCA// PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001796

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/13/2017
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [TU](#) [LE](#)
SUBJECT: TURKISH AMMUNITION CONTRIBUTION TO LEBANESE ARMED
FORCES UNLIKELY

REF: ANKARA 1703 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Political-Military Counselor Carl Siebentritt,
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) We followed up with MFA Head of Department for Middle East Affairs Sedat Onal on July 10 to press for a contribution of 105MM and 155MM ammunition to the Lebanese Armed Forces to assist in their continuing battle against Fatah al-Islam. Onal repeated pre-election political concerns reported reftel and told us he did not expect a positive MFA decision.

12. (C) We contacted the Turkish General Staff (TGS) J-4 Logistics Division July 11, who confirmed that TGS had sent MFA its recommendation opposing the contribution. The J-4 contact expressed frustration with our follow-up query, questioned why the U.S. and not Lebanon was pressing for the contribution, and commented that the ammunition could be used against Turkish troops serving in UNIFIL.

13. (C) Comment: Given TGS opposition and pre-election political sensitivities, it is unlikely that Turkey will agree to contribute ammunition to the LAF in the foreseeable future. End comment.

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